Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (currently amended): A ~~bevel gear mechanism, in particular~~ hypoid bevel gear mechanism, comprising an output shaft (3) which is mounted in a housing (1) and which is assigned a bevel gear (7) which interacts with a drive bevel gear (8), wherein a single stage or multistage gear mechanism (9) which is dimensioned differently is arranged in front of a hypoid stage (H) so as to be capable of being plugged in a modular fashion in one and the same central flange (13) of the housing (1) in order to mesh with the bevel gear (7) of the output shaft (3), wherein the drive bevel gear (8) ~~being~~ is seated on the single stage or multistage gear mechanism (9) and ~~intermeshing~~ intermeshes with the bevel gear (7) of the output shaft (3).

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The bevel gear mechanism~~, in particular hypoid bevel gear mechanism, comprising an output shaft (3) which is mounted in a housing (1) and which is assigned a bevel gear (7) which interacts with a drive bevel~~

~~gear (8),~~ of claim 13, wherein the output shaft (3) has an output flange (23) for adapting output elements.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The bevel gear mechanism~~, in particular hypoid bevel gear mechanism, comprising an output shaft (3) which is mounted in a housing (1) and which is assigned a bevel gear (7) which interacts with a drive bevel gear (8),~~ of claim 13, wherein one region of the drive unit and one region of the hypoid gear mechanism connected thereto are divided into lubrication spaces (20.1, 20.2) which are independent of one another.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 13 to 15~~ claim 13, wherein the output shaft (3) and bevel gear (7) are arranged in two parts so as to be capable of being connected to one another on an axis (A, B).

Claim 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 14 to 15~~ claim 14, wherein the bevel gear (7) is provided with a shoulder (10) on which a main bearing (2.1) of the output shaft (3) is seated and supported with respect to the housing (1) and~~, if appropriate,~~ a closure lid (11).

Claim 19 (currently amended): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 14 to 15~~ claim 14, wherein the

bevel gear (7) is connected at the end to the output shaft (3), ~~in particular bolted thereto,~~ wherein at least one shoulder (24) is provided in the bevel gear (7) and output shaft (3) for the purposes of radial centering.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in claim 19, wherein the main bearing (2.1) is supported on the shoulder (10) of the bevel gear (7).

Claim 21 (currently amended): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 14 to 15~~ claim 14, wherein the bevel gear (7) is plugged in a rotationally fixed fashion onto the output shaft (3), and the main bearing (2.1) is provided between a shoulder (10) of the bevel gear (7) and the housing (1).

Claim 22 (previously presented): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in claim 15, wherein the output shaft (3) is constructed at one end as an output flange (23) for adapting any desired output elements, wherein a main bearing (2.1) is provided between a shoulder (10) of the output flange (23) and the housing (1) for the purpose of radially supporting the output shaft (3).

Claim 23 (previously presented): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in claim 16, wherein one (20.2) of the lubrication spaces is formed between the sealing elements (19) located outside the main bearings (2.1, 2.2), and between the output shaft (3) and bevel gear (7) and housing (1).

Claim 24 (previously presented): The bevel gear mechanism as claimed in claim 23, wherein the other lubrication space (20.1) is formed between the sealing elements (19) of the drive shaft (3) and the drive flange (23).